

INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY

Germany (Russian Zone)

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

DATE DIED 23 April 1948

SUBJECT

SED Control of the Leipzig Police

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1. At the time of the Russian occupation of Leipzig, the Leipzig police force included 1200 officers and 250 criminal police employees. Of the officers, 993 were SPD members, but 650 of them had been Nazis, as had over a hundred of the criminal police employees. These officers were systematically released, one after the other, regardless of their Nazi or non-Nazi backgrounds, until by the summer of 1947 not one of the original 1200 remained in office. No person who had been an official under the Hitler regime was allowed to pursue police duties of any kind.
 2. The personnel director of the Leipzig Police Presidium had no hand in the choice of replacements for the police. All new officers were recommended and selected in 1947 exclusively by regional or local SED committees. They reported "reliable" candidates to the Police Presidium, which checked, for the most part, only whether the individual had a criminal record. If no previous conviction could be shown, the SED candidates had to be appointed by the Police Presidium. In addition, the SED district leadership in Leipzig assumed direct control over the release and suspension of police officers, without reference to any state authority. Police Vice President Hennig, for example, was removed from office by the Bezirksleitung of the Leipzig SED.
 3. Police discipline, operations, and morals suffered under this regime. In lower offices practically anything could be obtained with cigarette bribes--and nothing without them. In the higher echelons, the prices were naturally higher but the principle was the same. Before the complete change of personnel, house searches and arrests had been made by one police officer only but by 1947 there had been so many complaints of thefts by police officers on duty that it was necessary to order two officers to work together. Since this did not correct the trouble, three officers were ordered to participate in house searches. Political arrests were usually made by two German officers with an MVD assistant.
 4. The Police President of Leipzig (as of November 1947) was one Schurig, a fanatical Communist without any professional police background. The police Vice President who succeeded Hennig, one Machloft, assumed office in early January 1948. He not only has no professional training but has had several criminal convictions. The head of the Saxony Police is Arthur Hoffmann, a Communist educated in Russia. He speaks Russian well but conceals his ability from Germans.

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